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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

MERIC *et al.*

Appl. No. (to be assigned)
(Continuation of International Appl.
No. PCT/IB98/01172)

Filed: Herewith

For: **IEEE Set Top Box Device Driver**

Art Unit: (to be assigned)

Examiner: (to be assigned)

Atty. Docket: 1581.0540001

Preliminary Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

A Preliminary Amendment is set forth below. Please enter this Amendment prior to calculation of any claim fee and prior to examination of the present application

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 3, line 1, replace "any preceding claim" with --Claim 1--.

Claim 4, line 1, replace "any preceding claim" with --Claim 1--.